

In Alice Springs, 38% of waste is organic (i.e. food and green waste). By separating out organic waste, the total amount of waste going to landfill is reduced – only items that cannot be recycled or composted will go to landfill.

The aim of Council's trial is to gauge the feasibility of a permanent FOGO collection service for the community that will extend the life of the landfill.

1. What are the benefits to me?

A trial will pave the way for a potential whole community service, allowing for unforeseen hurdles to be addressed during the trial. A successful trial will result in households gaining an environmentally-friendly means of disposing of organic waste, that is actually good for the environment.

2. How often will my bin be emptied?

On a weekly basis. However, for a period of one month a fortnightly pick up will be trialed.

3. What if I run out of compostable bags at home?

Council's front desk will be stocked with compostable bags – contact our friendly customer service officers.

4. How do I stop my FOGO kitchen caddy smelling?

By emptying your FOGO kitchen caddy regularly, smells will be reduced. Other smell-reduction solutions include:

- Keep your kitchen caddy out of the sun, e.g. in a cupboard, under a benchtop
- Wash and dry the kitchen caddy before replacing the compostable bin liner
- Place newspaper or a paper towel in the bottom of the kitchen caddy, before replacing the compostable bin liner
- Freeze your meat/seafood and place it in the bin on bin collection day

5. Can I use other kinds of bin liners?

Please use only the supplied compostable bin liners. Compostable bags are made of organic material and will break down into non-toxic components, perfect for composting.

Biodegradable bags take decades to disappear, as they break down into ever smaller fragments of plastic, contaminating the organic compost.

6. What CAN go in my FOGO kitchen caddy (bin)?

- Food scraps, including vegetables, seafood, dairy, meat, bones (cooked or raw), teabags, coffee grounds and egg shells
- Lawn waste, including grass clippings, leaves, bark, twigs, plants and weeds (large amounts can be deposited directly into your 240L bin)
- Shredded paper, paper towels, paper napkins and tissues
- Food-contaminated / food-soiled cardboard (e.g. used pizza boxes)
- Personal cuttings, including hair and nail clippings

7. What CAN'T go in my FOGO kitchen caddy?

If it doesn't grow, it doesn't go. In general, only things that were once alive, or were grown, should go in your FOGO kitchen caddy.

This means no:

- Plastics (no biodegradable plastic bags, shopping bags, take-away food containers /straws / cutlery)
- Nappies, used pet litter
- Fabric (e.g. clothing, cloth bags, bandaids)
- Hard waste or broken household items (e.g. metal, glass, plates and cups)
- Hazardous or contaminated waste (e.g. asbestos, oils, paint)
- Thick, large tree branches, palm fronds